Central intelligence Agency



Washington D. C. 2050S

85- 470 6

27 November 1985

The Honorable Michael D. Barnes Chairman, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs Committee on Foreign Affairs U. S. House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Barnes:

I welcome the opportunity to brief the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs concerning developments in Central America as requested in your letter of 22 November 1985. However, before scheduling this briefing I would like to meet with you and Mr. Fascell to discuss an issue of concern to me. Following that discussion, we can then schedule the briefing.

This information is also being provided to Mr. Fascell.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey
Director of Central (Intel)

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: JUN 2004

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Executive Registry

85- 4706/1

27 November 1985

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs U. S. House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I welcome the opportunity to brief the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs concerning developments in Central America as requested in Mr. Barnes' letter of 22 November 1985. However, before scheduling this briefing I would like to meet with you and Mr. Barnes to discuss an issue of concern to me. Following that discussion, we can then schedule the briefing.

This information is also being provided to Mr. Barnes.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey Director of Central Intelligence

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Congress of the United States

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November 22, 1985

The Honorable William J. Casey Director of Central Intelligence Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

I am writing to confirm my request that the Central Intelligence Agency provide a closed briefing for the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs on the current situation of the Nicaraguan armed opposition and the status of its military and political efforts. The principal purpose of this briefing is to assess progress toward the achievement of certain objectives of U.S. policy that are intended to be furthered by the provision of U.S. assistance to the opposition. Such assistance is currently provided, as you know, pursuant to legislation under the jurisdiction of the Committee of Foreign Affairs.

The Agency is specifically requested to provide the subcommittee with information on the following:

- (1) a review and assessment of the size and capabilities of the various opposition military forces, the military situation and the military outlook for the opposition, current prospects that the opposition could defeat the Sandinistas militarily, and the capabilities that would be required for the opposition to achieve that objective;
- (2) the current representation of former members of the Somoza government and national guard in the ranks of the opposition military and political leadership;
- (3) opposition violations of human rights or the laws of war inside or outside of Nicaragua, and any measures taken by the opposition leadership to punish or prevent such violations;
- (4) the current political program of the opposition groups;



The Honorable William J. Casey Page Two November 22, 1985

- (5) the impact to date of the opposition efforts, and U.S. assistance for them, on Sandinista willingness to pursue a dialogue with the opposition, to move toward a political opening and decreased repression, and to sign an agreement that would implement the 21 Contadora objectives;
- (6) the nature and depth of support for the opposition forces within Nicaragua;
- (7) current Honduran government and popular attitudes toward the opposition forces;
- (8) the effects to date of the U.S. trade embargo against Nicaragua;
- (9) the final disposition and use of U.S.-supplied "humanitarian assistance" to the opposition, including any misuse or diversion of such assistance; and
- (10) the nature, sources and extent of other (non-U.S. Government) assistance, including military assistance, available to the opposition.

If there are any questions, or if there is a need to coordinate -security details, please have your staff coordinate details with - Robert Kurz, Staff Consultant of the subcommittee, on 226-7812.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Barnes

Chairman

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs

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B-308

2 December 1985

SUBJECT: Talking Points/Background Information for DCI's Meeting with Chairman Fascell and Congressman Barnes

The following provides background information for your use in your meeting with Chairman Fascell and Congressman Barnes:

-- Beginning in mid-1985, we received several indications that the Nicaraguan Government had sources in Washington who were providing them with inside information on U.S. policy deliberations regarding Nicaragua. For example:

the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington received an account of an 11 June 1985 White House meeting for Congressional leaders on aid to the Nicaraguan resistance and had a copy of the President's letter to Congressmen McCurdy and Michel concerning the House Amendment.

-- Recently, a sensitive source has provided us with a classified document prepared jointly by the FSLN International Relations Directorate and the Foreign Ministry, dated 17 September 1985, which indicates that Mr. Victor Johnson, Staff Director of the Sub-Committee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, provided the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington with inside information and advice on Administration plans regarding Nicaragua. The text of the Nicaraguan document follows:

SECRET

"United States

"Conversation with Johnson, Personnel Director of the Hemispheric Affairs Sub-Committee, who travelled through El Salvador and Costa Rica.

"Source: Embassy of Nicaragua (Washington)
"Upon his return to Washington, (Johnson)
expressed:

"The Costa Ricans justify their lack of disposition toward dialogue with Nicaragua by saying that they would draw attention away from Contadora and delay the necessity for reaching an overall agreement.

"(He) suggested that he does not see any progress in Contadora and that Nicaragua is going to have to be ten times more reasonable in order to oblige the countries of Central America to sign a draft treaty, even if they do it out of shame.

"The Administration will not ask for military aid for the 'Contras' over the short term. The most probable timing would be after March 1986.

"He believes that the Administration could obtain the three disbursements of \$9 million each without having to renew talks in Manzanillo. This will depend on the political atmosphere.

"The U.S. is keeping Manzanillo as an ace-in-the-hole to be used when they need it to obtain more funds for the 'Contras,' or if the U.S. political atmosphere calls for it."

DCI'S SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 1985 ;

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Executive Registry

85- 4789

5 December 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Deputy Director for Intelligence Deputy Director for Operations

FROM:

Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Meeting with Congressmen Fascell and Barnes,

4 December 1985

- l. I went up to see Danny Fascell and Mike Barnes. They both took our concerns seriously. Fascell pushed Barnes to limit the staff for the hearing to one from the Minority and one from the Majority.
- 2. Barnes made a pretty fair case that the documents I brought up did not necessarily indicate that the staffer was acting improperly. He said that both members and staff of his committee routinely talk to Ambassadors and other officials of Latin American governments. It is to be expected that these conversations will be reported back to the government and wind up in their files. The item I showed him indicated that the staffer had pressed the Nicaraguan government to improve its behavior, saying they are going to have to do ten times as well to establish a proper relationship with the US. He also said US policy was not to ask for more money until March. Barnes pointed out that that is a matter of conversation which many people pass back and forth around Washington. In short, there certainly seemed to be no smoking gun and nothing to investigate here with any likelihood that anything would happen. Nevertheless, I think it was a good talk and a good way to get their attention regarding the importance of handling our material carefully.

William J. Casey

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